



Gone

Julie Elizabeth Powell

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Is Charley crazy, delusional or dead?

Follow her amazing, emotional journey and emerge into the battle with her nemesis – herself.

This inspirational fantasy will take you into realms otherwise unknown, turning your world upside down while you'll be wondering what is real and what is not. It's an adventure, a mystery and an imaginative fairytale for adults.

Gone was a story motivated by a true event.

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Gone Details

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Author : Julie Elizabeth Powell

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From Reader Review Gone for online ebook

~ Rose ~ ?Desert Rose✿ says

This story takes you into the realm of Avalon, full of fantastic characters and colorful experiences. Every chapter encourages the imagination to stretch a little wider, while echoing profoundly honest doubts and feelings most would try to bury. Creating a unique take on the after-life, this story raises questions about life after death, and sheds light on the basic fears of the unknown.

Full of wonderful and colorful characters, this story mixes fairy tale and mystery. While the main character embarks on an incredible journey, she meets a wild cast of creatures who help her find herself, and the key to her future. Leaving the book with a sense of hope, these characters help teach invaluable lessons.

Much like the mind of the main character, the writing style of this book seems confused, and is a bit maddening. Not necessarily that it's poorly written, but rather the character we're following is full of confusion and madness. Reading this story gave me the distinct feeling that each time I grasped the feel, began to understand what was going on, I was spun in another direction and confusion returned. Because of this dizzying style, this book left me in a love/hate funk, and I have yet to land on any decided emotion.

Overall, I did enjoy this book. It's honest, and while it did leave my head spinning a number of times, I think that's part of the point. Life is confusing, and this author did a fantastic job of showing the reality of pain and fear, mixed with the fantastic world her imagination created.

*I was given an ecopy of this book, from the author, to read in exchange for an honest review.

Lana Campbell says

Lovely fantasy novel. Charlie bares a ton of burdens on her shoulders. She's lost loved ones in a car accident and has a daughter who survived but is living in a coma. Charlie lives live but isn't really living it until she has a heart attack in her office one day and is whisked away into the afterworld. That's where the fantasy begins and it's quite the ride. This is a good story about life after death in a fantasy realm. My personal beliefs about life after death made her story hard to fathom, but I liked the writer's ability to paint some very grand pictures in this make belief place where she is challenged with all sorts of tests. It was lovely that one of her chaperones in the afterworld was her daughter. It really ministered to Charlie's heart because she was able to see her daughter as she would have been if the accident hadn't happened. But so much more occurs and makes it quite the adventure. Highly recommend this read unless you are a Christian. Definitely isn't what happens in the afterlife, but a great take on it from a fantasy viewpoint. Great picture painting by the author and really excellent writing. Characters and places really do come to life. A very fun read.

Sheri says

Gone (Julie Elizabeth Powell

Gone is a fantasy story which takes the reader to a strange land called Avalon where there are goblins, talking flowers, creepy creatures, wonders, and danger. A fascinating fantasy with surprises at every turn.

Based on true events in the authors life, the loss of her daughter at a young age, turning her into a "shell" of a person leading ultimately to her death. In Gone, Charley suffers a heart attack and is not sure if she is dead, in limbo heaven or some strange delusional state of mind. There she meets up with her Daughter, and ends up in Avalon.

A mix of fantasy with real life emotions and feelings, it answers some questions in a mothers life on what happened when her daughter was gone, still medically alive, but not a whole person. A fantastic theory on what happens when one is not yet dead, but still not here.

I highly recommend reading both Gone and Slings & Arrows

Billy Young says

Gone a review by Billy Young author of A Winter Journey.

This is a fascinating and very thought provoking story from a wonderful new author. You follow the journey of Charley a middle aged woman who has suffered great tragedy through out her life but just after achieving a successful new contract for her business is struck down by a heart attack. From here we are led of a exciting and sometimes confusing journey through what we suppose maybe the afterlife, yet still the question nags is she really dead is this all real or has the character lost her mind and we are travelling through the deluded mind of a mad woman.

As we travel questions are answered as more questions seem to surface as Charley finds strengths she never knew she had and we the reader see the world from a new perspective. A truly great read that all fantasy fans should find a really break from the usual run of the mill scifi fantasy genre but still is filled with the wonder of other realms.

Nathan Boxall says

It was very good, I found it difficult to get into, but once you were in the world it encouraged me in several ways. the only reason I didn't give it 5 stars is that I found it too confusing and random. But I recommend it to anyone who has lost a lived one.

Maria says

I enjoyed this book. It is a wonderful story which kept me interested from the beginning right through to the last page. It is based on a true event in the authors life which inspired the tale. 'Gone' is a fantasy story which takes the reader to a strange land called 'Avalon' where there are goblins, talking flowers, eerie ghouls,

dangers, wonders and more. By the end you are left wondering whether Avalon is a real place, and kind of hoping that it is! The author has done a great job telling her tale. Charley, the main character, has a brain-damaged daughter, and she has lived with the guilt of giving her daughter away to be looked after by someone else. She no longer recognises her daughter whenever she visits, and has in fact stopped visiting her very often. One day Charley has a heart attack and ends up in a place called Avalon, there she meets her daughter and the story begins. 'Gone' uses a fantasy tale to tell a very important story about how our actions and choices in life affect other people. I would highly recommend 'Gone' to anyone who loves a good book.

Julie Powell says

I am the author of this book and I can honestly say that I learned more than I ever could have imagined from both its creation and during the many times of re-reading. Not least that my writing skills have certainly improved from that terrible first draft when all that was important was to 'set down the story' while the idea was still fresh.

Several drafts later, I found www.lulu.com and realised a dream...that at last I could put into 'real print' this important story that was in answer to the terrible life suffered by my daughter, Samantha, after she was severely brain-damaged at the age of two, surviving for a further seventeen years.

During those years, I often wondered 'where she'd gone?'...my novel seemingly spiralling into being, as if from nowhere, yet the seed was there all the time, growing into a fully formed world, as if merely waiting to be discovered.

Gone is a fantasy which tackles the themes of loss and grief but it is also about following an identity, which has been stripped from its owner. It's about life and what makes us who we are and how the bonds of love can never be broken. And, if I have learned nothing else...it is about hope.

It is not quite like any other story, as it is not about death in the true sense though shifts from supposed reality to other plains of existence. It also takes surprising and humorous twists and turns, dealing with 'loss' in a unique way.

Gone has been described as 'a journey of wonder, perfect, beautiful, magnificent, captivating, moving and sprinkled with fantastic humour' and '...for those of us with our own demons to vanquish...' but if nothing else, it will most definitely make you think differently.

Thank you.

Julie Elizabeth Powell

Martha Rodriguez says

Charley is a woman who is burdened with immense emotional pain. She has suffered for herself and for her daughter, Jenny, for many years. Doctors are able to keep Jenny alive after her heart stops, but to what end? Confined to her twisted, silent body, Jenny is, for all intents and purposes, gone.

Gone is a fantasy novel based on the true story of Julie Elizabeth Powell and her daughter Samantha. In the novel, Charley is thrust into a sometimes strange, sometimes comforting other-world where she meets new friends and foes alike. She wonders where she is and how she got there. Is her mind playing tricks on her or is this real? Is she dead or alive?

In this alternative world, Charley meets a beautiful, sweet and gentle young woman who turns out to be her daughter, Jenny. She feels great joy at the sight of her daughter, now healthy and vibrant after so many years of pain and silence. But Charley has to make a decision. Will she choose to stay in this strange place where her daughter is full of life or will she return to the Jenny who is gone?

This book could only have been written by a parent who has been through the torture of watching her child's life slip through her loving arms. The emotions that Charley experiences on her fantasy journey are those that any parent would experience in her situation; love, hate, frustration, bravery, and guilt, to name a few.

Ms. Powell takes us on a great adventure with Charley. Her feelings are raw. They make us fear for her life in one instance and push her to accept another harrowing challenge in the next. The path is long and tiring for Charley but it's well worth accompanying her. What will she learn about herself and about life along the way? Will she decide to stay or to leave?

One thing I really like about this book is that, even with all her emotional pain, Charley has a sense of humor, especially when she talks to herself. We've all had that "laugh or cry" moment and sometimes Charley goes for the laugh. She might describe it more as losing her mind than having a sense of humor but that's part of the charm of the character.

Gone is a terrific read!

Jean Carver says

Great read! Julie is a marvelous and gifted writer.

Grant Leishman says

Okay - WOW! Just wow!

It's not often this writer is left speechless, but Julie Elizabeth Powell, take a bow. Your book Gone has achieved that for me.

When I first picked up Gone and glanced at it, I figured it would be a tough, angst-ridden look at the pain and suffering of a parent whose child has suffered a serious health issue that has left her in an almost vegetative state. I was fine with that as I learn so much from other people's memoirs and the ways in which they cope with the vicissitudes life sometimes can throw their way.

I couldn't have been more wrong. What Gone is, is a delve inside the imagination of one woman's view of what the afterlife might be. Although this story was motivated by the author's own experiences with her daughter, who suffered such a fate, it was an attempt to view her experiences through a different prism, from a much more positive perspective.

How to describe the story? For me, this wild ride inside Powell's imagination was a cross between Alice in

Wonderland, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and one of Robin Williams' lesser known films, What Dreams May Come, which also explored the afterlife.

The adventures the main character Charley undertakes in this vision of the afterlife are surreal and fantastical and yet there are so many lessons, homilies, morals and thoughts about life that each incredible encounter brings us. I particularly enjoyed the references to the power of the mind and thoughts, which aligned very much with my own perceptions and rules for living. Charley gets to experience so many things that the rest of us only dream of and in this quest is the answer to the two burning issues in her life; Why? and Guilt. Why did this horrible thing happen to her and her daughter? Also, she needs to confront the overwhelming sense of guilt she feels over her inability to care for her damaged daughter and her desires to end it all for her and take away the problem and the pain.

I have no doubt the telling of this story was incredibly cathartic for the author and allowed her to address these same issues in her own mind.

As you may have guessed by now, I was in awe of the author's imagination, her ability to weave words and the incredible story in general. I have read some amazing books by some incredible authors over the last few years, but this sits right up there with the very best.

I have now begun a fictional story by this same author and am enjoying that equally.

In my mind, Julie Elizabeth Powell is an author to follow and to watch. Five plus stars for this surreal fantasy, *Gone*. Great stuff.

Bill Ward says

This is the third book I have recently read by this author, which is the best evidence of how much I enjoy the author's writing and creativity. On this occasion, the author imagines a fascinating after life. We are all mortal and as such will inevitably think about what happens to us when we die. This book tackles the difficult subject of loss and grief, but this is not a depressing read. The author creates a spiritual reading experience, which will make you think about life and death whatever your religious beliefs. An emotional and thought provoking read.

Jennifer Kelland Perry says

Gone is a fantasy tale inspired by true tragic events in the life of the author, Julie Elizabeth Powell.

This type of book is a definite departure from what I usually read, but I was pleasantly surprised by how much I enjoyed it. It deals with facing fear as well as the possible existence of an afterlife, both achieved in a powerful and imaginative way. I can only imagine the grief that instigated the story, yet I can understand how writing this novel helped Powell work through her loss, while taking us along on the main character's vivid and emotional journey.

Wish fulfillment? Most definitely. Reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland? Yes, in many areas. That said, it still has plenty of originality and heart.

Kurt Chambers says

General Information

Publisher: Julie Elizabeth Powell

Year of publication: 2014

Number of chapters: 20

Number of pages: 252

Plot summary: (blurb)

After Charley dies in her office chair, how is it that she finds herself propelled into the mysterious world of Avalon?

Upon encountering an essence, which insists is her daughter – the one she knows she left behind – insanity battles with fear inside her mind.

The further she delves, the more puzzling things appear, especially after she rises into the Orb of Caprice – a realm of fairies, talking flowers and goblins...and something else, something that lurks in the shadows ready to swallow her whole.

Can she realise in time what it is she must do...or has she left it too late?

Gone is a story inspired by a true event.

Positive points

Gone is not a mainstream story, but rather one written from the heart. I loved this about this novel. The book being based on a true story adds a depth that you can't get from a typical book written for the market. I found it moving and incredibly brave of the author to delve into some of the issues that were portrayed in this book. It affected me emotionally seeing the raw feelings and thoughts from a mother who has lost one of her children. This is a big plus for the author. Who wants to read a book without emotion?

Despite the hard issues, the story is far from being dark or morbid. It has an unusual adult fairytale feel to it. It reminded me of the classic tale Alice in Wonderland, a thought that was reflected by the main character at one point. You get to visit a fantasy land filled with colourful and original characters.

If you are looking for a story that is possibly unlike any story you have read before, this is the book for you.

Negative Points

There were some minor grammar issues in this book that were not mistakes but more of a niggle. It was nothing that took away the enjoyment of the story, just the odd POV slip, a few repeats and the overuse of ellipses. I ran a novel workshop for some years and had these things drummed into me, so I'm sure this would only be noticed by someone who has been through the same discipline.

What makes this book unique

I found the whole concept of the book unique. It is a true story set around an original fantasy world.

Overall Impression

I really enjoyed reading this story. Knowing it was a true story made the sad bits really sad. I am in awe of the author's bravery. I can only imagine how hard it must have been to write these words after suffering such a life-shattering experience. It made me laugh and made me cry. I would be very happy for such reactions from anyone who read one of my novels. Well done, Julie.

My rating

This is difficult. I want to give Julie five stars for the originality of this story, but with the overuse of ellipses and other minor grammar errors, I have to award four stars for simple honesty. But it was a close five.

Maria Haskins says

Julie Elizabeth Powell's 'Gone' is a wonderful, trippy, mind-bending, and deeply touching story about a woman who has lived with a terrible loss - the near-death of her child - and the tragedy of how that child's body is brought back to life, even though her consciousness seems to gone, kept alive by machines for years and years. Inspired by the author's own experiences, this is a rich book: rich in vivid imagery, and rich in both sadness and wisdom and (yes!) humour. Even in the darkest places, this story finds gleams of light and love and insight and even fun.

In many ways 'Gone' reminds me of Alice In Wonderland, as the main character Charley dies in her office chair and (much to her own astonishment) enters another dimension/realm/world/reality called Avalon. There, she encounters a creatures, people, and beings that challenge and tempt and help her. She also encounters the daughter she lost many years ago and she is forced to confront her own feelings and fears and her own inner grief and darkness. Her odyssey through Avalon is vividly told, and Powell's writing is both expressive and engaging.

'Gone' is a moving and original story that is part fairy-tale, part fantasy, part a journey through grief and fear, part spiritual quest. Powell draws you into the realm of Avalon, and brings you along on a unique ride inside one woman's grief, love, and the longing for hope and redemption. It's a terrific read, and I highly recommend it.

Susanna Mahoney says

GONE

by Julie Elizabeth Powell

A truly amazing tale of fantasy of facing questions, doubts, fears and deep sorrow not in the earthly realm but in a magical wonderland of tests and trials for a lost soul who was to suffer the challenge of losing her two year old to brain trauma and had to live with the guilt. Until it consumed her mind, body and soul;

causing the defense mechanism to develop causing fear and guilt from preventing the wounded person from living a full life of happiness and enlightenment. Until she is drawn into a mysterious realm where she has to face and conquer her fears and learn to forgive herself for the dark thoughts we all think when confronted with desperate pain and choices.

The mother suffers a trauma and as she lies in a coma she is transported to a Netherlands of wondrous adventures and meets creatures of all sorts who help, chase and assist her on the journey of forgiveness and a new beginning.

It was a thrilling and mind stimulating story to share with others. It could open the mind to explore 'what if' and how thoughts transform life every day.

This author is very talented and shares her personal journey to help others to heal and learn forgiveness to move forth during difficulties.

It is not all heart wrenching, it is fun and exciting to read as the character goes on a quest to locate the cup and finding herself along the way.

In the author's words;

“What now?” she asked.

“Touch it again,” encouraged Jenny. This time Charley found her face falling into the sticky surface of the door. Automatically closing her eyes until her head felt free and still, she dared to open them to see billions of figures, scuttling like ants, almost covering part of the Earth’s surface.

But it was the jumble of thunderous sounds, indistinguishable to her ears, which caused her heart to quicken. Pushing back against the pressure behind, she heard squelching as her head was gradually freed, the opening she’d made immediately sucking itself back into place with a jerk.

“W...What was that?” she stammered.

“You were seeing the world as it is now...everyone rushing, thinking only of themselves, not remembering the past or each other. “

Definitely recommend this book for fun reading and exploring the unknown.

Rosary McQuestion says

A modern day Alice in Wonderland...the road to acceptance.

Charley is a forty-two-year-old woman who’s going through personal struggles and great heartache. Her lovely daughter is neither here nor there. Due to a tragic accident, her daughter lives in a state of limbo in which her heart beats within a shell of a body. One day while at work, Charley has a sudden heart attack and as she loses consciousness, it’s as if she falls down a rabbit hole and finds a fantastical new world—a world in which her daughter, Jenny, happily lives her life. And in finding her daughter, Charley begins the journey to find herself. The whole time she is fighting for her life.

“Gone” is a wonderfully touching story about the cleansing of the soul, coming to terms with years of feeling haunted by choices made, insecurities always tapping the shoulder of life and asking, “Did you make the right decision?” But it’s also an uplifting story of hope, redemption, and ultimately peace in one’s heart.

Since the book is based on a real life event, I have to think that writing the book was cathartic, a cleansing of the mind, so to speak for the author. There were so many times throughout the book in which I could feel her emotions of hurt and pain. However, like I said, the story is uplifting and once you reach the end of this fabulous fantasy, you will know the meaning of the title, "Gone."

And to the brilliant author, Julie Elizabeth Powell—long may Avalon reign!

Y.I. Lee says

I'd been wanting to read, 'Gone' for some time, and was delighted to receive a copy in exchange for an honest review. Having read other books by Julie Powell, I'm a fan.

'Gone,' is right up there with them.

This author has an incredible imagination. 'Gone' is beautifully written and so descriptive.

It takes the reader on an amazing journey to a place called Avalon.

I have my own Biblical, and imaginative ideas as to what heaven is like; however parts of Avalon certainly come close.

'Gone,' is birthed out of the authors tragic loss of her daughter. Which makes the story even more poignant. Charley the main character, dies of a heart attack and finds herself in the amazing and sometimes frightening world of Avalon, where she meets a lovely young girl, Jenny. This happy, healthy girl, Charley quickly realises is her daughter. And so begins Charley's own personal journey towards healing, and the process of finding herself, after years of guilt, and what ifs.

'Gone' is a story that pulls you in, and keeps you reading. The book is filled with characters that stay with you long after the book is finished. Like the delightful little Brogan. I loved him.

However, not so keen on the twins, Fun and Games, or Puzzle Woods.

This can't have been an easy book for the author to write. There are moments of powerful emotion, nevertheless tempered with humour and excitement.

'Gone' is brilliant, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to read it.

Gregory Lamb says

After reading "Lost Shadows," by Julie Elizabeth Powell, I was curious about her first novel, "Gone." Powell provided me with a review copy and after reading the book's description, I held on to it for quite awhile thinking I'd have to be in the right mood to enjoy it. I was pleasantly surprised to discover the unexpected journey I found myself enjoying while following the adventures of Powell's main character, Charley.

When Charley collapses at her desk, she awakens in another world where she meets up with the spirit of her daughter Jenny. "Gone" is one version of where one's soul goes after they die. Powell creates a world known

to the characters in this story as Avalon. While there, Charley confronts her guilt and her fears, conquered with the help of several other characters along the way.

The story is well conceived and well written. It is a bit slow in some places, but there is certainly enough intrigue to keep you reading to the end. I couldn't stop until I found out how and why Charley was in Avalon and how the story was going to end. Read it and enjoy the ride.

Kathleen Garlock says

How does one deal with the loss of a child?

Badly, I would suppose. At least it would be true in my case.

Charley Woods has faced and shouldered that most awful of burdens. Her daughter is not dead, but trapped inside a body and brain damaged by a tragic accident suffered as a toddler.

Or is she?

This is the intriguing premise of Julie Elizabeth Powell's novel, GONE. That there might be worlds beyond our physical plane; a place where souls might thrive beyond our sight, while their bodies diminish under our sorrowing gaze. Places where mythic creatures pose riddles, tempt the unwary, and teach much needed lessons about courage, self-sacrifice, and most importantly, self-awareness. All while instilling hope that while the essence of those we love might be somewhere else, they are never truly gone.

Written with an optimism every bit as magical as her imaginary land of Avalon, Ms Powell's prose is alternately poetic and disjointed. I was confused and bemused as often as I was enlightened and entertained. While I understood and appreciated the author's exploration of the place where Charley's daughter, Samantha, had 'gone', I was confused by the later trip to Avalon. For me it was if two unrelated stories had been badly spliced together. Or better, two dream worlds collided.

Lapses in logic, as well as a simplicity in philosophy and storytelling, which other readers might find charming, ultimately led me to give this heartfelt novel a 3 rating.

Highly recommended for those looking for a sweet and very inspirational read.

Sara Gauldin says

This fantasy book was powerfully inspired by a real life emotional event. That sense of emotion and grief interspersed with joy and acceptance is a continual undertone in the book. The characters are realistic and their journey through the other worlds beyond are poignant and touching. The author devotes a huge amount of thought, and description to careful world building. The after life "in between" worlds that encompass the

mortal world, along with thought, imagination emotion and impressions of the sometimes mortal passer-bys are vivid and insightful.

The premise of this book is intriguing to me. A mother, Charley has watched her daughter who was once a healthy child wither in a hospital bed; a shell of the person she had once been. As time goes by she wrestles with the guilt of her avoidance and emotional turmoil surrounding the daughter that she lost, but whose body remains as a painful anchor to that loss.

Charley finds herself at what seems to be the unexpected end of her own mortal life when she suffers a heart attack. She is able to chronicle her journey as she leaves the living world and encounters an entire plane of existence beyond what she expected. Charlie is reunited with her lost daughter and is faced with a new reckoning with the emotions she was not comfortable addressing. Her reunion sparks a series of adventures that are extremely imaginative and intriguing.

I particularly enjoyed the other worldly concepts and the ideas about the spirits role in and out of mortality.
